Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council

Draft Meeting Summary

February 17, 2005
Holiday Inn Chicago – Mart Plaza
Chicago, IL

Attendees:
Judy Beck, U.S. EPA – Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO)
Sue Brauer, U.S. EPA – Region 5 – Waste, Pesticides and Toxics Division
Alex da Silva, Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)
Art Garceau, IDEM
Victoria Harris, University of Wisconsin Sea Grant
Peter Hughes, U.S. Geological Survey (by phone)
John Hummer, Great Lakes Commission (GLC)
Joe Keithley, IDEM
Janet Keough, U.S. EPA - Office of Research and Development (ORD)
Gary Kohlhepp, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Russell Kreis, U.S. EPA – ORD
Ric Lawson, GLC
Sarah Lehmann, U.S. EPA Region 5
Gerald Niemi, University of Minnesota – Natural Resources Research Institute
Charlie Peters, U.S. Geological Survey
Bill Ward, Cadmus Group
Glenn Warren, U.S. EPA – GLNPO
Steve Westenbroek, U.S. Geological Survey (by phone)
Jeff Wickenkamp, Northeastern Illinois Regional Planning Commission

*** indicates action items**

Call to order at 9:07 a.m.

Welcome
CP welcomed everyone to the 11th LMMCC meeting.
JB has two interns working on Lake Michigan LaMP issues.

Council Business
JH reviewed the agenda. No changes.

Announcements
JH: read a statement on $24 M available for probabilistic monitoring.
SL: currently $10 M for 05 to upgrading state monitoring programs. R5 allotment unclear.
JB: limitations?
SL: no as long as monitoring.
JB: Beach Act needs to be reappropriated.
RK: should talk to MI about this.

AG: we have a probabilistic design. Some updates to do, so could use some additional resources.
*** SL will update the LMMCC on appropriation developments.**

JH: updated group on LaMP forum results. Want to engage in "stewardship assessments". Interested in issue topics at upcoming meetings. Structured approach to LaMP review.
- State of LM will be at KI Convention Center in Green Bay Nov. 1-3. Nov. 1st is open for adjunct mtgs. VH: will get an announcement out.
CP: next NALMS is Nov 9-11 at Monona Terrace in Madison.

No other business.

Monitoring Initiatives and Updates

- **Update on Great Lakes Environmental Indicators (GLEI) research activities in Lake Michigan**

GN: Gave presentation on GLEI project.
? Tracking cost for study or monitoring?
GN: cost for implementing methods for indicator calculations. Two to three years to completion.
?how do you quantify disturbance?
- collapsed a number of stress measures into a composite gradient. Then we tease the stressors apart for individual bioindicators. Ag land use seems to have the most wide spread impact on coastal areas.

- **Great Lake Regional Collaboration**

JB distributed summary document on GL Regional Collaboration. Pointed out that there is a "perfect storm" of policy movements focused on GL restoration. All based on the Council of Great Lakes Governors' nine priorities. GLRC collapses into 8 strategy teams. A strategy for the Great Lakes is the end point of this process. Clear and concise packaging of issues and potential solutions is the goal. Draft by July. Final by December. LMMCC participation (of those present): RL – hab, JB – SD, AD – II, ?; GK – II, CP – II; BW – NPS; GW – II, SD; RK – PBT; VH – HS, SD; JH – AOC; SB – PBT, NPS

- **Great Lake Monitoring Inventory**

RL provided update. No questions.

- **Michigan Clean Water Corps**

RL – discussed state program to coordinate volunteer monitoring.
GK – steering committee drawn from volunteer programs. Education programs will be included, but data not used unless high QA/QC data.
JB: similar in other states?
AG: we don't run a program like that. Are looking into the work provided by volunteer data. IU contracts for lakes monitoring.
SL: OH had 3 tiers. Regulatory, screening, education. IL is considering a tiered approach. MN uses a lot of volunteer data. WI is looking into it. Self-help monitoring of lakes. MI has gone furthest with volunteer data.
CP: it can erode deeper monitoring. Tiered approach would help address this.
GK: will not use for non-attainment assessment. Very useful for screening, though. Helps us target where to send state officials for thorough investigation.

- **Wisconsin Monitoring Strategy**

CP: WI is developing a complete strategy in print. Includes groundwater and volunteer components. On WDNR website, http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gcc/draftmonitor.pdf. Good first step.

- **Development of a National Monitoring Network**

CP: Ocean Commission and president call for a National Monitoring Network to be integrated with Ocean Observing System (IOOS). Final report to CEQ in 06. Workgroups: one looking at inventories; network framework group. Not only surface water quality. Physical, biological, and chemical. Contact AG if interested in participating or go to their web site, http://water.usgs.gov/wicp/acwi/monitoring/network/index.html. **AG will provide updates.**

Tributary Monitoring Project

JH: gave a brief introduction of the project.
On the phone: Peter Hughes and Steve Westenbroek.
CP reviewed the proposal. Send edits to CP.
- 95% confidence interval threshold met?
SW: Yes, there will be an effort to determine if original Lake Michigan Mass Balance (LMMB) thresholds were met. Also, look at changes from the 1994 estimates.
RK: holding out for Milwaukee, Sheboygan, St. Joseph?
CP: only if more resources for WI sites.
GK: will be collecting data for St. Joseph. Can add to the list. Also have older data on Pere Marquette and Muskegon.
RK: yes, timing may not matter too much due to half-lives.
?: Superfund data to be used?
JB: was told that no PCB samples would be collected this year. Plan for future collections, but nothing this year.
RK: their sampling is also well upstream from our target sites.
VH: they are also finding that mercury is being recently deposited. New local sources.
GK: we are finding that as well in MI.
JB: on the hook for TMDL for PCBs and mercury. We need to know the trends.
PH: spoke with Chuck Ledin. No resources for monitoring. Some PCB sampling in Fox, but methods quite different. No real hope.
SW: Superfund long-term objectives have not been solidified. Don't know if they are doing concentrations or loads.
JB: need to go back to WDNR with this proposal.
CP: CL thinks that LMMCC will be confusing the situation, rather than vice-versa.
SW: some discussion tomorrow with Milwaukee MSD about coordinated sampling.
*** GK will send information on additional sampling of LM tribs to CP staff for assessment of inclusion in the analysis.**
SW: bottom line: more samples better, but @ 12 samples/site, and if PCBs have a half-life around 10 years, we should be able to detect significant change from 1994-95.
CP: we also did some analysis of surrogates.
SW: could supplement PCBs with suspended sediments and water temperature to imply PCBs. That is also costly, though.
RK: IPX was applied to Fox, Milwaukee and Sheboygan. Maybe we could use that.
*** SW will follow-up for information on the IPX work.**
CP: 12 samples from each location. Lab work by WI state lab funded directly by GLC grant. City of Chicago monitoring in Grand Cal?
SW: if we don't start until May or June, we sample into 06.
*** Group agrees to go forward with the work plan. Final comments to CP. GLC will organize a call for QAPP development.**

Groundwater
JW: gave presentation on regional projections and planning commission resources
- pointed out that there really is limited information on groundwater.
JB: NARC – National Association of Regional Councils
JW: map of basin's regional planning agencies available.
VH: air photos available?
JW: yes. Also working on a single portal of GIS information. Greg Sanders is the NIPC expert.

National Assessment of Water Availability and Use
NG presented a new initiative for a GL Basin Pilot for eventual national development.
- See USGS Circular 1223.
- Wilcox paper on very long-term water levels will come out within a year.

USGS Groundwater Recharge projects
NG provided presentation on some basin GW recharge initiatives.
- possible project for LMMCC – drought forecasting tool. See NE US.
- recommended several areas where additional monitoring could be useful.
- don't have many wells that monitor the natural fluctuation vs. problem-driven wells.
- study of contamination and pumping.
- annex indicators. Base flow. water quantity, and two others. None are water levels.

? will study examine impacts of contamination from Chicago.
NG: no, too focused. Something for locals.
- models can point out where data is needed.
CP: water use reports on 5-year cycle. Resources are declining. Some states may not do this anymore.
JW: right, the water use data breaks down when we start trying to use it with communities.
CP: ag will have to start reporting in WI.
NG: not in MI.

CP: so what is the role of LMMCC? Advocacy, inventory?
JB: would like to see NG's presentation at State of LM.
***NG will present at State of LM.**
NG: one thing that does not show up in analysis is what is monitored in 3rd dimension. Big differences in shallow vs. deep wells.
JB: annex process may yield some needs and resources.
JH: need for a communication mechanism between the 10 planning commissions.
JW: have the 3 southern commissions together. Others have not grown as much, so may not be looking at this issue.
VH: it is for Bay County.
JB: is also in MI.
NG: shallow systems in MI. Ice Mountain case is in court. Relates to ecosystem function. That's what we need to look at long term.
- LMMCC should apply influence to make sure that what monitoring needs to get done, does get done.
JB: very important issue for the basin and should be a higher priority than it is.
NG: we are concerned with direct flux into the lake. Important from a habitat perspective.
RL: who's not at the table here.
CP: state geologists.

JB: need to know what you are looking for when we approach them. Need to meet them in their jobs.
NG: we don't want to try and project use. Locals should do that.

Workgroup Status Reports
ANS—JH discussed the project to develop an Early Detection (ED) system. Conducted a survey. Analyzed the LM monitoring inventory. Workshop last June. Document with 21 recommendations. Final document will be released in 2005. next steps are to circulate document. Strategy for outreach. GL Panel to help with that. Implement a pilot workgroup to move the recommendations forward.
GK: how does this tie in with ANS Strategy Team from GLRC?
JH: not on that group, but other staff from the GLC is.
GK: should be linked.
CP: volunteer community could also be a help.
JH: part of the recommendations is to do trainings for that element.
GK: we have a grant out to sample in the Lake Superior basin.
SL: need to have an action for reporting. Resources to do the intake on such reports could be staggering.
JB: Shed aquarium wants to do a large display on ANS.
SL: use the Sea Grant ANS playing cards.
JB: 800 number?
JH: recommended a central data repository (also part of ED report's draft recommendations).

Land Use – have been working with planning commissions. Next step is to bring them to the table. Wanted to use the Watershed Academy to turn them into a group focused on SOLEC indicators.

Tributaries – project discussed and fact sheet on data from 70s – 2000.
GK: all our data is on the website. SWiMS conference a week ago. Presentations or links will be on an EPA website.
JB: good conference to co-locate at in the future.
GK: Lucinda Johnson did a presentation on GLEI. She suggested a state tour. Good idea.
***SL will send email on SWiMS site.**

Wetlands – RL described the progress and next steps within the Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium.
- also discussed the new project in conjunction with Bird Studies Canada's Marsh Monitoring Program.

Other groups –
Recreational Waters, AdS will report on the GL Beaches group. They meet once a year, and then irregularly as needed.

Open Lake – GW made a few contacts, but did not get much interest. Can make reports on GLOS. Once a business plan is developed we can have a presentation on that. Air is also supposed to be a part of GLOS.

Air – also has IADN, Rapids, and state air people.
GK: states meet once a year or so. Could get a report on their coordination.
AdS: is there an air director's consortium?

JB: yes, there is one for Lake Michigan. Very contentious. Still exists though. Could also get some air deposition monitoring from Lake Guardian in concert with the tributary monitoring.
CP: WI lab has a new mobile lab that looks at a number of constituents. Could be a future connection.
GW: yes they did that from a boat on Lake Ontario. EPA will be doing some contaminants work from the Guardian – air and water. Also some biologicals.

Fisheries – RK: special sampling at Saugatuck and sturgeon reef, looking at nearshore vs. deep water populations. Also hearing about a lot of food web problems. We want to look at stomach contents for lake trout. But that will not happen.
JB: there will be a fish tissue program to standardize that a bit.
RK: knowing what the fish are eating may give us a better understanding of why fish are still contaminated. Crashes in benthics are not just in Lake Michigan, though.
GK: is the Lake Michigan fish committee looking at this?
RK: no.
JB: March 22 in Ypsilanti. GLFC mtg. Report on the State of Lake Michigan.

Wildlife: Rich Greenwood may be able to pick that up.
- Mike Molnar is Laurie Rounds replacement.
JB: IL is going to move forward on a CZM office.

Other discussion:
CP: outreach group should meet again to discuss next steps; populate the website.

Next Steps
RL and JH reviewed action items.
Next meeting: For now, plan on Nov. 1 in Green Bay, WI.

Adjourn
The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.